

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated March 24th, 2005, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration based on the following remarks and amendments. Applicants respectfully submits that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1 through 32 are pending in this application. Claims 25 through 30 have been subject to a restriction requirement and have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 8 through 11, 13 and 15 have been amended. Claims 9, and 20 through 24 have been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 through 19, 31 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application 2002/0038357 (Haverstock et al.), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,314,425 (Serbinis et al.). Claims 20, and 22 through 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Haverstock et al., in view of Serbinis et al., and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,555,375 (Sudama et al.). Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haverstock et al., Serbinis et al, and Sudama et al., in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,088,679 (Barkley).

Rejections

Applicants have noted

[a] particularly important operation in workflow systems is managing access to documents as they move through various stages of a workflow. In a typical document-publishing scenario, significant time can elapse between creation of a document and final approval of the document for external viewing or publishing. For example, after an author revises an existing document and enters the revised document into a publishing workflow, several editors may need to review the document prior to the document receiving final approval for viewing by people outside the publishing group. It may take an extended period before the editors have an opportunity to review the document. In the meantime, it is necessary to restrict access to the revised document until it receives final approval. Indeed, it is necessary to restrict access to the document even if the editing process takes only short time. **Editors should be given access to the new version of the document for purposes of editing and approving the document while**

those without approval authority should be given access to the original version of the document without revisions. Thus, it can be said that the original or “base” document and the revised document should be maintained separately, or “isolated” from each other and access given as appropriate to one or the other during the period that the document is undergoing approval in the publishing workflow.

Applicants have disclosed systems and methods to provide such functionality. According to an aspect of the disclosed systems and methods,

when a revision is made to an original or “base” document and the revision placed in a workflow, a separate “working” copy of the base document is generated. As the document moves through the workflow, new versions of the “working” copy document may also be generated. Security controls, which define who may access the base document as well as any versions of the working copy document, are defined and stored in relation to the documents. The security controls further define the types of actions users may take with respect to the document. For example, **the security controls may specify that a user should be given access to the working copy document as opposed to the base document** and should have the capability to check-out the working copy of the document for revision.

Accordingly, Applicants’ claim 1 as amended is directed to a computer-implemented method for controlling access to documents during a workflow, comprising:

- upon entry of a base document into a workflow, creating a workflow working copy of the base document;
- receiving a request to access the base document by a user;
- determining using the identity of the user if the user should be provided access to the workflow working copy of the base document;**
- providing the user access to the base document if it is not determined that the user should be provided access to the workflow working copy of the base document;**
- providing the user access to the workflow working copy of the base document if it is determined that the user should be provided access to the workflow working copy of the base document; and**

if the user is provided access to the workflow working copy of the base document, selectively providing access to perform operations on the workflow working copy of the base document depending upon the identity of the user.

Claim 13 as amended is directed to a system for providing document isolation in a workflow environment, comprising:

- a processor, wherein said processor is operable to execute instructions for performing the following acts:
 - maintaining for a base document undergoing a publishing workflow, a workflow copy of the base document;
 - maintaining access control data in relation to the base document and the workflow copy of the base document,
 - upon receipt of a request to access the base document, determining based on the access control data if access should be provided to the workflow copy of the base document; and**
 - providing access to the workflow copy of the base document if it determined that access should be provided to the workflow copy of the base document; and**
 - providing access to the base document if it is determined that access should not be provided to the workflow copy of the base document.**

In order for a reference or set of references to render these claims obvious, the reference must disclose each of the claimed elements, including those emphasized, and suggest the claimed combination. More particularly, the references must teach **upon receipt of a request to access the base document, determining based on the access control data if access should be provided to the workflow copy of the base document, providing access to the workflow copy of the base document if it determined that access should be provided to the workflow copy of the base document, and providing access to the base document if it is determined that access should not be provided to the workflow copy of the base document.** Applicant's undersigned representative respectfully submits that none of the references even teach the emphasized limitations, and cannot possibly suggest their combination with the other claimed elements.

The Prior Art Does Not Anticipate Or Render The Claims Obvious

The Examiner alleges that claims 1 through 19, 31 and 32 are obvious over Haverstock et al. in view of Serbinis et al.

Haverstock et al. allege to disclose a system for enabling access to non-HTML files from a Web browser. (Abstract). When a system user requests a non-HTML file from a database using a Web browser, the Web browser transmits the request to a server via an HTTP server and module. (Abstract). The server locates the requested document, retrieves it, and translates the document into a format supported by the Web browser. (Abstract). The translated document is then communicated to the Web browser. (Abstract). Haverstock et al. further disclose restricting access to fields and employs the concept of roles in doing so. (§§ 57, 65.) For example, a user with the “depositor” role can write to a database. (paragraph 68.) A user with the “reader” role has read-only access to pages on the Web site. (paragraph 69.) An “author” can create and post new pages to the Web site. (paragraph 70.)

Serbinis et al. alleges to disclose internet-based document management systems and methods wherein access to a system is controlled through the use of access tokens (Abstract). An internet accessible document management system allows electronic documents to be stored and accessed using a browser, downloaded for review, and then returned to the server for access by other users (Abstract). The server is programmed to generate and validate access tokens and provide services to users based on the validated access tokens (Abstract).

The claims have been amended to clarify the that the user is either provided with the workflow copy of a base document or the original base document depending on the identity of the user. Upon entry of a document into a workflow, a workflow copy of the base document is created. The purpose of the workflow copy of the base document is to allow select users to make changes to the workflow copy of the base document, while other users are still provided access to the original base document. Once the workflow document changes are completed or the workflow document is otherwise approved, the workflow is complete and the workflow document replaces the base document for all the users.

Neither Haverstock or Serbinis et al. teach or suggest **upon receipt of a request to access the base document, determining based on the access control data if access should be provided to the workflow copy of the base document, providing access to the workflow copy of the base document if it determined that access should be provided to**

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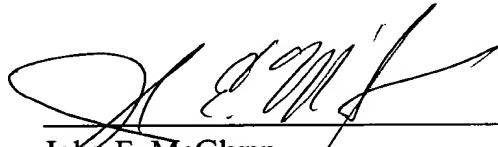
the workflow copy of the base document, and providing access to the base document if it is determined that access should not be provided to the workflow copy of the base document. Accordingly, Applicants' undersigned representative respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant's undersigned representative respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

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John E. McGlynn
Registration No. 42,863

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439